

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 AID-05

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 AEC-05 CEA-01 FEAE-00

FPC-01 INT-05 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-01 CU-02 ACDA-05 /111 W

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O R 031605Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5653

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4667

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: SOMOZA'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS, WHILE LACKING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS, INDICATED HE WOULD MAKE MAJOR EFFORTS IN RAISING SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF RURAL POPULACE, FIGHTING INFLATION THROUGH CONSERVATIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES, AND REDUCING DEPENDENCY ON FOSSIL FUELS. HE ALSO PLEDGED HE WOULD BE BOUND BY LAWS AND CONSTITUTIONS AND WOULD FOLLOW CAUTIOUS PATH IN FOREIGN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN 40 MINUTE SPEECH FOLLOWING HIS INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT

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OF NICARAGUA, ANASTASIO SOMOZA DEBAYLE TOUCHED ON THE ECONOMY,

FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, AND RURAL PROGRAMS WHILE BY AND LARGE AVOIDING THE MENTION OF SPECIFIC MEASURES OR INNOVATIONS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS IN THESE AREAS.

2. CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION--KEENLY AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE OTHER FOUR CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS, SOMOZA EMPHASIZED CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION, DECLARING HIMSELF AN ADVOCATE NOT ONLY FOR IDEALISTIC, BUT FOR PRACTICAL REASONS. HE CALLED FOR SOLIDARITY IN THE FACE OF ERRATIC WORLD MARKETS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPLEMENTARY ECONOMIES WHERE "TO PARTICIPATE IS TO SHARE". HE ALSO SAID THAT PEACE WAS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO THIS EFFORT AND, INDIRECTLY EVOKING HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS, PROMISED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK IT IN EVERY WAY.

3. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS--PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY IN THE AGE OF DETENTE AND AN EMERGING COTTON MARKET IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, SOMOZA LIMITED HIMSELF TO PROMISING TO CULTIVATE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ALL DEMOCRATIC NATIONS, TO STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE OAS, AND TO SUPPORT THE UN WHOLEHEARTEDLY. NICARAGUA'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WERE NEITHER MENTIONED BY NAME NOR SPECIFICALLY ALLUDED TO DURING THE ADDRESS.

4. RURAL PROGRAM--SOMOZA STRESSED THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE RURAL POPULACE. HE MENTIONED AGRICULTURAL COLONIZATION AS A WAY TO CREATE JOBS WHICH MAY BE LOST IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR THROUGH UNSTABLE WORLD CONDITIONS. ALTHOUGH HINTING AT SOME SORT OF LAND REFORM IN A FEW SPOTS, SOMOZA LAID GREATER EMPHASIS ON RAISING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC LEVEL OF THE RURAL POPULACE THROUGH BETTER EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY, AND IMPROVED HEALTH SERVICES.

5. ECONOMY--HE PROMISED TO STRUGGLE AGAINST INFLATION THROUGH BALANCED BUDGETS AND THE STRENGTHENING OF EXCHANGE RESERVES TO BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY BETTER PLANNING. SOMOZA PLEDGE TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT RATE OF EXCHANGE AND NOT TO TAMPER WITH THE FREE CONVERTIBILITY OF THE CORDOBA. RESPONDING TO CHARGES OF FAVORITISM IN THE ECONOMY AS WELL AS STUDIES ESTABLISHING LINKS BETWEEN OLIGOPOLIES AND INFLATED PRICES, SOMOZA DECLARED THAT HE WILL TREAT ALL CAPITAL IN A NONDISCRIMINATORY WAY IN ORDER TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND ALLEVIATE INFLATION.

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5. ENERGY--IN ONE OF HIS MOST SPECIFIC POLICY STATEMENTS, SOMOZA PROMISED TO DEVELOP HYDRO AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES TO THE UTMOST IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE HIGH COST OF IMPORTED FUELS. HE ALSO PLEDGED THE COMPLETE ELECTRIFICATION OF NICARAGUA BY 1979.

6. POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS--SOMOZA PROCLAIMED THAT THE 1971

POLITICAL PACT WHICH GUARANTEED THE CONSERVATIVES 40 PERCENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SEATS, SAFEGUARDED ALL POLITICAL VIEWS, AND THAT THE NEW ELECTORAL LAW GUARANTEES THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS. REMARKING THAT DURING HIS LAST ADMINISTRATION, CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS WERE NEVER SUSPENDED NOR WAS THE LAW BENT, SOMOZA SWORE HIMSELF TO RESPECT CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS AS THEY ARE ESTABLISHED IN THE CONSTITUTION. "ALL OF MY ACTS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE LAW", HE SAID, "AND THE LAW WILL DEFINE THE LIMITS OF MY AUTHORITY".

7. NATIONAL GUARD--IN A SPECIAL ENCOMIUM TO THE GUARDIA, SOMOZA PRAISED THE FORCE FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND RESPECTING THE CONSTITUTION. HE ESPECIALLY LAUDED THEIR "IRON DISCIPLINE" AT THE TIME OF THE EARTHQUAKE WHEN THEY IDENTIFIED WITH THE TRAGEDY OF THE PEOPLE. HE ASKED THE GUARD TO RECOGNIZE HIM AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF AND ACCEPT HIS AFFECTION AS A FELLOW SOLDIER.

8. COMMENT: FOR THOSE WHO EXPECTED THAT SOMOZA WOULD MORE CLEARLY DELINEATE HIS GOALS, PROGRAMS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE NEW TERM, THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS WAS SOMETHING OF A DISAPPOINTMENT. HAVING REFRAINED FROM OUTLINING HIS PROGRAM DURING THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN (AND BEING UNDER NO PARTICULAR PRESSURE TO DO SO), SOMOZA ONCE AGAIN LEFT HIS AUDIENCE HAZY ABOUT HIS PRIORITIES. HOWEVER, THE SPEECH DID ADUMBRATE AT LEAST HIS SUPPORT FOR MORE SERVICES FOR THE RURAL POPULACE, A BASICALLY LAISSEZ-FAIRE ECONOMIC APPROACH, AND EMPHASIS ON NON-FOSSIL SOURCES OF ENERGY. FOR THOSE WHO EXPECTED, IF NOT SUBSTANTIVE ENLIGHTENMENT, AT LEAST SOME SPIRITUAL OR AESTHETIC UPLIFTING, THE SPEECH WAS EQUALLY DISAPPOINTING. ILL-ORGANIZED AND CHOPPY, TURGID AND OBSCURE, THE ADDRESS FAILED TO ACHIEVE DISTINCTION. SOMOZA HAS NEVER BEEN NOTED FOR HIS ORATORICAL SKILL NOR ABILITY TO TURN A NEAT PHRASE, AND THIS EFFORT CONFIRMED THAT HIS FORTE IS IN THE REALM OF DECISIONS AND DEEDS, RATHER THAN WORDS.

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9. THE REFERENCES TO ABIDING BY THE LAW AND CONSTITUTION INTERSPERSED THROUGHOUT THE SPEECH ARE ENCOURAGING IN LIGHT OF THE HISTORY OF THE SOMOZA DYNASTY. SENSITIVE TO DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF THE SOMOZAS' STRONGMAN APPROACH TO EXECUTIVE POWER, HE WOULD LIKE TO CREATE A IMAGE OF A PRESIDENT WHO IS BOUND BY LAW. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO COME TO THIS JUNCTURE, SOMOZA HAS WISELY UTILIZED THE INTERIM PERIOD OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO PERFORM THE PROCRUSTEAN TASK OF STRETCHING AND REFORMING OLD LAWS CONCERNING POLITICAL DISSENT TO MEET FUTURE SITUATIONS. EXCEPT IN THE MOST EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES, HE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL ANY EMERGING POLITICAL UNPLEASANTRY WITHOUT RECOURSE TO EXTRA-LEGAL ACTS DURING THE COMING PERIOD.

SHELTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INAUGURATION, PRESIDENT ELECT, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANAGU04667
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740350-0382
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741265/aaaacdoi.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMOZA'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS, WHILE
TAGS: PGOV, NU, (SOMOZA DEBAYLE, ANASTASIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005